



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
10 W. JACKSON BLVD.
CHICAGO, IL 60604

NEWS RELEASE

Permanent Residents with Expired “Green Cards” Do Not Lose Legal Status

CHICAGO, IL., July 6, 2000 - Lawful permanent residents whose Resident Alien Cards, or Green Cards as they are commonly known, have expired, are required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to renew the card. An expired “Green Card,” however, does not mean that the individual loses his privileges afforded as a resident. Such privileges include the ability to work in the United States, sponsor a relative to immigrate to the United States, and to reenter the US after traveling abroad. Employers hiring a permanent resident who presents a card that has expired should accept it as a form of proper identification.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, employers are required to complete and maintain a Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, for every employee hired. Form I-9 requires employers to obtain copies of specific identification from the employee. The “Green Card” is one of the acceptable forms of identification presented by a permanent resident. **INS is receiving reports that employers are terminating workers whose “Green Cards” have expired. Although their cards are expired, these workers do not lose their permanent legal status and are therefore still authorized to work legally in this country. They should not be terminated from their employment simply because their “Green Cards” have expired. Employers with questions regarding this matter should contact the Office of Business Liaison Employer Hotline at 1-800-357-2099.**

Since 1989, the INS has been issuing “Green Cards” (Form I-551) that expire every 10 years. Prior to that date, the cards did not have an expiration date. In order to renew an expired “Green Card,” the applicant should complete Form I-90, “Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card.” This form is available by calling the INS’ toll-free forms request line 1-800-375-5283 or by downloading it from the INS website at www.ins.usdoj.gov. Once completed, they must apply in person at one of the conveniently located Application Support Centers (ASCs) run by the INS. They must bring with them:

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Expired Green Card

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- A completed Form I-90 and a check or money order for the \$110 application fee;
- Their expiring/expired Green Card;
- Photocopies of both the front and back of the card;
- Two color photographs, as specified on the Form I-90 instructions;
- Personal identification (e.g. driver's license, state issued identification card or passport).
- Renewal applicants whose name has legally changed must bring documentation of the change (e.g. marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order).
- Renewal applicants who received their Green Card before their 14th birthday and are now over 14, must be fingerprinted. They must bring a check or money order for the additional \$25 fingerprinting fee.

Once Form I-90 has been filed, the INS will place a sticker on the back of the expired "Green Card" indicating that the card has been extended. Applicants can call the INS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 to obtain a listing of the closest Application Support Center near their home, or check the website at www.ins.usdoj.gov.

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